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# Mark 'Muddy Harp' Hodgson to paint Amphitheater 'Blue'

**July 25, 2014**— If you love the Blues, you will love the next performance scheduled for the City of Deltona's Music in the Amphitheater series. Mark Hodgson will perform from 7-9 p.m., Aug 9 in the Deltona Amphitheater, 2150 Eustace Ave.

Born in Detroit, Hodgson actually grew up in Daytona Beach; One day at a friend's house in Daytona, while his buddies were surfing, the youngster noticed a harmonica lying on the kitchen counter. He went over and picked it up. He blew into it and from then on he was hooked. The friend gave the "harp" to him. This simple introduction would prove to be a turning point in his life. He devoured everything he could find on the subject of the Blues sometimes walking 10 miles just to go to a record shop that was rumored to carry all the 78's and 45's available at the time. Discs by Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Sonny Boy Williamson, Little Walter and Sonny Terry would more than satisfy the new found hunger. As the days grew into months and the months became years, Hodgson, became a band leader. The night club scene in Florida was strong in the 70's and 80's and would become a proving ground for the budding bluesman.



Hodgson and his band eventually travelled to Nashville to record demos for Gary Lamb productions. The music was ahead of its time incorporating rock and reggae with the blues, in 1981 this was a bit much for the Nashville crowd. Hodgson was asked to stay on in Nashville to become a solo artist but declined out of loyalty to his friends in the band. The years flew by and so did the members of the group. There were more recordings, concerts, nightclubs, videos, and heartaches. Through it all, Hodgson remained entrenched in the Blues and kept writing and performing.

In 1985, Hodgson once again tried the Nashville game and was signed to a publishing contract. During this period Hodgson became involved with the Memphis Blues Foundation and placed first runner up in the National Blues Talent Search. Many notables were introduced to Hodgson at the time, which led Bob Greenlee of King Snake records to go National with his fledgling Blues label based in Sanford. Hodgson was responsible for placing "The Return of the Thin Man," the comeback recording of the late tenor saxophonist, Noble Watts, on the W.C. Handy Awards, 1985 ballot for best recording. The partnership lasted almost 20 years. When Noble passed in 2004, Hodgson went solo.

Several food trucks including the Wingman, Kona Dog and Scary Mary's Ice Cream will offer their specialties in the parking lot. The 2014 Music in the Amphitheater Series takes place the second Saturday of each month from April to October in the Deltona Amphitheater. Caribbean Crew will play the September edition of the series. For information on this and other events happening in the Deltona Amphitheater, call Deltona Parks & Recreation, (386) 878-8900.